

NEWINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
NEWINGTON TOWN HALL
131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNEECTICUT
CONFERENCE ROOM L-101 LOWER LEVEL TOWN HALL
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2012
7:00 PM

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman James Marocchini
Commissioner David Marsden
Commissioner Gregory Polk
Commissioner Thomas Shields
Commissioner Linda Woods

ABSENT

Commissoner Mark Mnich
Commissioner Fernando Rosa (excused)
Commissioner Paul Vesella (excused)

GUEST – Matthew Guy – MPA Student, University of Connecticut

II. MEETING MINUTES – March 7, 2012

Commissioner Polk made a motion to accept the March 7, 2012 minutes and Commissioner Marsden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rose Lyons spoke to the Market Square parking; one hour on one side of the street and two hours on the other side of the street and, the lack of signage. Commissioner Shields referred to the September 7, 2011 EDC minutes wherein Chip Stamm voiced his concern regarding the lack of signage at Constitution Square and Town Planner, Ed Meehan distributed Sketch B depicting the proposed signage for Constitution Square. (Also, refer to December 11, 2011 minutes).

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion Newington Business Breakfast

June 8, 2012 was suggested for the annual Newington Business Breakfast at the Indian Hill Country Club with Commissioner Shields suggesting Catherine Smith, EDEC State Commissioner of Economic Development as honored guest and speaker. North East Utilities among others were mentioned as possible sponsors and discussion will continue at next month's meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Market Square Streetscape

Chairman Marocchini reported that there was a recent site meeting held by the Downtown Revitalization Committee and work is in progress including the need to have 2 hour uniform parking on both sides of the street and correction/completion of street signs and crosswalks. There are now 18 street lights, down from 30. This project should be completed by May 15, 20112.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Carol Anest was concerned regarding the “bandit” signage being distributed throughout Newington, especially on the Berlin Turnpike on weekends. She will send an e-mail to Arthur Hanke, the Zoning Enforcement Officer and is also looking forward to the input of the newly appointed Town Planner and Economic Development Director. Carol Anest stressed that enforcement of the statute is the issue.

Rose Lyons also spoke to the issue of signage, especially at the newly developed Market Square noting that “cardboard” signs appear out of place and are not checked for spelling, etc. Miss Lyons was also concerned regarding Lowery Place and its lack of street lights being a safety issue.

VII. REMARKS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners Marsden, Polk, Woods and Shields agreed that rogue signage in Newington is a big issue.

Commissioner Polk agreed that Northwood’s Plaza has been an eyesore to the Town of Newington for several years now. He also reported that strangers are using the Market Square trash bins to discard their trash and that the Newington Police Department is keeping a watch on the situation.

Commissioner Shields announced that the former Crest Pontiac site has been renovated and is for sale.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Marsden made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Polk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sophie Glenn
Rerecording Secretary